

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 03977 071731Z

46

ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 PC-01 SP-02 AID-05 IGA-01 ABF-01

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R 071500Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6209

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 3977

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SGEN, JM, US

SUBJECT: FY 1976 PEACE CORPS PROGRAM

REF: STATE 236947

1. THE GOJ RESPONSE TO A USG REQUEST FOR A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN GOJ SUPPORT OF PEACE CORPS OPERATIONS IN JAMAICA WOULD BE STRONGLY INFLUENCED BY THE FOLLOWING FACTORS:

(A) LOCAL SENSITIVITY TO PRESUMED REPRISALS AGAINST JAMAICA'S RECENT UNILATERAL INCREASE IN THE BAUXITE LEVIES;

(B) THE GOJ'S ANNOUNCED GOAL OF NATIONAL SELF-RELIANCE;

(C) THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE, WHICH IS SIMILAR TO THE PEACE CORPS; AND

(D) THE GOJ FY 1976 BUDGET YEAR BEGINS APRIL 1, 1975.

2. WITH THE FOREGOING FACTORS IN MIND, FOLLOWING ARE EMBASSY'S RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS POSED PARA 5 REFTEL:
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PAGE 02 KINGST 03977 071731Z

(A) THE LIKELY GOJ RESPONSE TO A REQUEST THAT IT INCREASE ITS CONTRIBUTION WOULD BE AN OFFER TO CONSIDER THE MATTER. CURRENT GOJ FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF BRITISH AND CANADIAN VOLUNTEERS PROVIDES A PRECEDENT. AN OFFER TO PROVIDE SOME INCREASED SUPPORT FROM MINISTRY OF EDUCATION BUDGETTED FUNDS MIGHT FOLLOW, BUT WITH THE SPECIFICATION OF GREATER PEACE CORPS PARTICIPATION IN CLASSROOM TEACHING;

(B) FACED WITH A SPECIFIC REQUEST FOR A "FAIR SHARE", SAY \$500,00 FOR FY 76, IT IS BELIEVED THAT GOJ WOULD REJECT IT OUT OF HAND, CITING FISCAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS. IN THAT EVENT, THE GOJ WOULD NO DOUBT PREFER A MUTUALLY AGREED PHASE DOWN TO A LOWER LEVEL OF PC INVOLVEMENT RATHER THAN AN ABRUPT JULY 1, 1975 TERMINATION DATE;

(C) THE TERMINATION OF THE PEACE CORPS PROGRAM UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES DESCRIBED ABOVE WOULD BE ADVERSE TO U.S. INTERESTS AND OBJECTIVES IN JAMAICA. GOJ IS ACUTELY SENSITIVE TO ANY USG ACTION WHICH MIGHT BE INTERPRETED AS RETRIBUTION FOR ITS NEW BAUXITE POLICY (E.G. DELAY IN APPROVING CCC CREDITS FOR JAMAICAN PURCHASE OF AGRICULTURE COMMODITIES). U.S. INITIATED TERMINATION PEACE CORPS PROGRAM DUE TO LACK INCREASED GOJ CONTRIBUTION WOULD BE SO INTERPRETED.

(D) THE IMPACT ON AID DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES WOULD NOT BE SIGNIFICANT. THE PEACE CORPS WORKS IN AREAS OF AID FUNDING BUT IS NOT A CRITICAL ELEMENT TO AID EFFECTIVENESS. A FIVE MAN VOLUNTEER EFFORT IS PLANNED FOR FY 76 IN SUPPORT OF A JOINT U.S. LOAN/JAMAICA APPROPRIATED FUNDS FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT. FISCAL SUPPORT FOR THESE VOLUNTEERS CAN BE PROVIDED FROM PROJECT FUNDS; AND

(E) FACED WITH A CHOICE BETWEEN INSISTING ON A GOJ CONTRIBUTION OR PHASING DOWN THE CURRENT LEVEL OF PEACE CORPS ACTIVITY, A PHASE DOWN IS DEFINITELY PREFERRED. THIS HAS BEEN THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF PEACE CORPS PRESENCE HERE AND COULD BE EFFECTED ON MUTALLY AGREED TERMS WITHOUT DAMAGE TO THE FAVOURABLE IMPACT OF PEACE CORPS OPERATIONS IN JAMAICA TO DATE.

GERARD

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